

VZCZCXRO4702
PP RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM RUEHNH RUEHTRO
DE RUEHGO #0316 1480733
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 280733Z MAY 09
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9038
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1998
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 5475
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 9069
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6645
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4458
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2451
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 000316

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP AND IO; PACOM FOR FPA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/27/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: BURMA: STATE MEDIA LINK BOMBS TO OPPOSITION GROUPS

REF: A. RANGOON 302

[1](#)B. RANGOON 312

Classified By: Political Officer Sean K. O'Neill for Reasons 1.4 (b) & (d)

[1](#)1. (SBU) On May 27 state media reported that two bombs exploded near government buildings in Mon State. According to police, there were no casualties when the bombs detonated near the Economic Bank and Forestry Department in the state capital Mawlamyine. So far, the police have not responded to our requests for additional information.

[1](#)2. (U) One day earlier, state media reported that an unexploded bomb had been found aboard a train headed for the capital of Nay Pyi Taw. Officials cited in the press articles claimed they found evidence the opposition exile group the All Burma Students' Democratic Front was involved, but did not elaborate. There have been no claims of responsibility for any of the bombs.

Comment

[1](#)3. (C) The bomb reports may be part of a renewed government effort to link the opposition with terrorism. In a May 21 meeting with Charge, the Home Affairs Minister Maung Oo asserted he had evidence the crowd outside Insein Prison (which has gathered during Aung Sang Suu Kyi's trial) is "making bomb threats" and "agitating people for street demonstrations" in attempts to destabilize the country (Ref A). On May 27, unknown persons (presumably GOB agents) distributed handbills near NLD headquarters accusing the party of supporting plans for terrorist acts to gain the support of the U.S. and other Western governments (Ref B). The allegations accent the regime's belief that political opposition is inherently destabilizing and, thus, a threat to the state.
DINGER